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Newsletter

Number 11

12 May 2017



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 Email – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

... to Clive Adams who has been a huge help at school recently advising on some pressing property issues.

... to those parents who have committed, again, to lending their considerable skill to supporting our senior options programme

People of the week

... Tayla Tobin, Player of the Day for Netball 3 team

... Savannah Armstrong who has hugely impressed Mrs Comrie with her diligence and independence in the completion of assigned tasks before school. Well done Savannah!

... Molly Nathan who has taken to her new glasses like a duck takes to water. Molly's glasses are very cool .. pink on the inside and purple on the outside. Well done Molly!

Term calendar ... More to follow as dates come to hand!

15 May	Junior Bike Day
18 May	Choir practices start (Hurupaki School)
23 May	Year 7 and 8 Winter Sports Tournament (pp 30.5)
5 June	Queens Birthday
8 June	Year 5 and 6 Winter Sports Tournament (pp 15.6)
22 June	Choir practice at Hurupaki School
3 / 4 July	Parent / teacher interviews
7 July	Final day of term 2
24 July	First day of term 3

School Council PJ / Teddy Bear Day

The school Council will be holding -
a PJ & Teddy Bear Day
on Wednesday 17 May.



Children are welcome to wear Pyjama's, Onesies etc or bring their favourite teddy bears if they wish (no compulsion). Council will hold a parade at 10:00am - parents welcome (in the hall if wet), and will award prizes and visit rooms for teddy sharing later in the day. Any questions to Mr D please.

Items in previous newsletter (Please access via our website or call the school office)

Pool Keys	Soon to be 5 year olds we may not know about	
Constable Ian Anderson	Sun hats	High Vis Vests
Dental Clinic Visits	Netball hoodies	Kapa haka

Virtue - Term 2

We are pleased to announce that our focus virtue for term 2 is HUMILITY (this is also our overarching virtue for 2017). Please take time to discuss this virtue with your children over coming weeks

... Why should we practise humility? ... What does it look like?

... How and where do you practise humility in your own life?

... How does humility impact others? - How does it impact us?

Children will be discussing this virtue at school over coming weeks. Please find support material attached and don't hesitate to contact us with shining examples of HUMILITY so that we can celebrate together. This is a tricky virtue to define ... we are defining it as "being other centred" and as "building others up" ... more to follow.

Winter Sports - Year 7 and 8 - 23.5 (pp 30.5)

Consents for this event were issued today. Please return these to school asap.

Statements and Invoices

... for the second quarter will be sent out next week. Please pay at your nearest convenience, or let us know if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements.

Headlice Inspections

In order to keep infestations as low as possible we would like to schedule a headlice inspection sometime in the next week or two. We need your help for these inspections to continue, if you think you may be able to help please give Helen a call on Monday.

Junior Bike Day (Years 1 to 3)

Great success last week. Next bike day (for children in Rooms 1, 2 & 3) this coming Monday (15.5).

Seesaw Online Portfolios

Mr Schuster is available by appointment to help anyone having difficulty accessing see saw portfolios.

Cyber Safety

A reminder that Mr Schuster or Mr Delemare are more than willing to discuss matters relating to cyber safety measures in the home. Research has shown that many parents are quite unaware of the material their children are accessing online and this is a real concern. The internet can be an invaluable resource when used properly, or a considerable danger if used improperly.

Netball / Hockey Hoodies

Thank you to those who placed orders in recent weeks. We expect the Netball & the remaining hockey hoodies to be delivered to school in about the end of next week.

Kapa haka

Our kapa haka group will continue to meet in the hall during Tuesday lunchtimes 12:30 to 1:00. Please remind children that their continuation in this programme will depend on their diligence, including turning up for sessions and applying themselves well to tasks. We expect to firm up group membership within coming weeks.

Learning support programmes for term 2

... are now in full swing. Mrs Comrie and Mrs Williams ask please that all assigned tasks are completed before the next session, this is critical if children are to make progress. Persistent non-completion of assigned tasks may result in a child being discontinued from the programme. Mrs Comrie and Mrs Williams are available, by appointment, to discuss how parents might further support their programmes, and are happy for parents to sit in on sessions.

Bus Monitors / Bus Behaviour

Periodically I meet with our bus monitors to support them in their roles. This role is a challenging one, bus behaviour is notoriously difficult to manage and some kids are "just not morning people". Because the driver's eyes are obviously "on the road" we rely on our monitors to ensure behaviour is safe and appropriate during the course of the journey. Monitors are expected to be fair, to ask nicely, and then to report to me any matters needing further attention. They do their best but, like all of us, they are not perfect. They are growing in the roles, as we are growing in each of our many roles. Please support them where you can.



I am more than happy to facilitate a discussion between a monitor and a bus student at any stage where either party feels they are not getting a fair deal (please do not facilitate this discussion yourself) ... just ask your child to drop by and I promise that any matters will be dealt with promptly and monitored where necessary.

Safety and the Lower Bus Bay

The lower bus bay is inevitably a pick up point for children after 3:00pm. In order to improve safety in this very busy area please help by ...

... parking well clear of the areas marked "buses only"

... giving priority to the buses at all times (this is a tricky piece of road and the drivers need our 100% support to get their buses onto the road safely)

... use the gravel parking areas **where practicable**, rather than the bus bay itself

... if travelling along Matarau Road please **REDUCE** speed when passing the school (even when the speed restriction signs are not flashing)

... ensure your children do not enter the bay, or the traffic island to wait for you. They all know that they are to wait at the top of the hill and to proceed down when they sight your car.

School Attendance

The Ministry of Education requires us to monitor attendance and to take action where this is below an acceptable threshold (around 90-95%). If you receive a letter advising of attendance of concern do not take this personally. Sometimes non-attendance can get away on us, and it can be useful to have actual attendance figures brought to our attention. The link between attendance and achievement is fairly clear, we are happy to work with any family to ensure that attendance is at acceptable levels.

Finally

If you have not yet discussed our current virtue (Humility) with your children, please see if you can squeeze something in this coming week, even if just ten minutes. You are their most powerful role model, if they see that you support and practice these virtues yourselves, they are much more likely to do this themselves. It is never a matter of which children (or adults for that matter) need these virtues most, we all need them. When we learn things like our multiplication tables the point is reached where we will know them as well (or as fast) as it is possible to know them, this applies with a lot of learning (economists call this diminishing returns). The exciting thing is that there are never "diminishing returns" with the virtues, the more we practise them, the more endless the possibilities seem.

(To keep it simple, we are explaining humility as being "other centred" and as "building others up")

Regards

Kevin Trewhella

PRINCIPAL

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children, please support them

**SUMPTER
BAUGHEN**

Chartered Accountants

Community Notices

Wanted - new members for **Ruatangata Indoor Bowls** group. Wednesday 7.30pm start. All ages (inc children 8+ yrs old) welcome. Great social / community opportunity. Contact Alan Agnew on 435 0141 or Ben Foster 435 1570 with queries or turn up from 7pm on Wednesdays.

SUNDAY CHESS. Children and Adults - Monthly on Sundays - 1pm to 3pm.. Kensington Table Tennis Hall. Beginners and experienced players welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated, towards Hall expenses. These sessions are run about once a month by Diana Schaefer and her son, Oliver, who are chess enthusiasts. Queries : Marilyn Stafford 021 264 9118

Hopscotch After School Care Programme - Based at Trigg Sports Arena on Park Ave. Mixture of centre based activities and excursions. Caters for 5-13 years old. Look us up on enrolmy.com, call 021 237 2598 or 021 030 6638 or email hello@hopscotchforkids.co.nz for more info.

Ruatangata Playcentre - A great place to spend time with your pre-schooler – relaxed atmosphere, plenty of resources and no fees! Open Tuesdays 9am-12 noon. Ph Clare for more info – 433 5544.

Cowboy Up Camp - 4 days of adventure, fun & bonding; Saturday 8th to Tuesday 11th July. For children 8 -15 years. Dromgool Horsemanship, Pahia, enquiries@horseman.co.nz or www.horseman.co.nz
House Cleaner wanted – local area. Phone Louise on 430 4380 for details.

Hook N Bang competition - fundraiser for the Mangakahia Sports Complex; this year we have added a kids comp (best dressed possum, heaviest eel). More info email northland@onfarmsafety.co.nz; Mangakahia Sports Complex website or Hook N Bang facebook page – facebook.com/hooknbang

Kiwi North Mother's Day event – Sunday 14th May, free entry for Mums accompanied by their kids, kiwi feeding & keeper talk 11, 1 & 3pm. www.kiwinorth.co.nz

Dr Graham's 'Blow-Up Science' taking place at 11:30am on Tuesday 18 July (school holidays) at Forum North. Dr Graham Walker has been performing science shows for the past 15 years around the world & thrill audiences with his unique brand of engaging science. The show is free but you must book tickets online - royalsociety.org.nz/drgraham.

House cleaner required 2-3 hours per week for general household cleaning work. Close to school. Please contact Louise on 0274 524 756 if you are interested.

Whangarei Grizzlies Trials – Open invitation to all rugby players U13 at 1/1/17 in Y7 or Y8 age group; Open Skills day – 2pm 21st May, Open Trial 11am 28th May, Final Invited Trial Wednesday 31st May , Marist Sports Club, Kensington Park. Jeremy Parkinson 021 898 550

School Lunches



Mondays - \$3.00 : Baked Beans or Spaghetti served with toast & a juice, or Chicken or Beef Cup of Noodles & a juice. Order at the office by morning tea on Monday.

Wednesdays - \$1.50 : for Sausage (meat or vegetarian option) in bread with sauce. Order on Wednesday mornings through the classroom teacher.

Fridays - \$4.00 : Hot Mince (or Mince & Cheese) Pies, Jumbo Sausage Roll or Sausage Rolls (with Museli Bar), Butter Chicken Wrap and a Fruit Drink. You can swap the Fruit drink for a Flavoured Milk for \$5.00. Order by Wednesday at the office, to receive Friday. In the

case of a child's absence from school and instructions to the contrary, we are unable to guarantee a refund or provide a lunch on a subsequent week.